

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/771,700**
Amendment dated November 7, 2003
Reply to OA of **May 7, 2003**

REMARKS

Claims 5-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5, 6 and 8-10 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. Claims 11-14 have been newly added.

The support for the claims amendments is as follows: Claim 5 (p.6, lines 12-17; p.9, lines 8-16); Claim 6 (rewritten in independent form); and Claims 8-10 (formal amendments).

The support for the new claims is as follows: Claim 11 (original claim 2 with formal amendment); Claim 12 (original claim 3 with formal amendment); Claim 13 (p.36, lines 17-22) and Claim 14 (original claim 4; p.36, lines 17-22; p.50, line 24 to p.51, line 1; and Examples 3-17).

The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. .

Objections to the Claims

Applicants have deleted the phrase "finely divided" from claims 5, 6, 8 and 10, in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Claim 4 has been canceled. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection of these claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Honda '114** (U.S. Patent No. 6,465,114 B1) in view of **Panush '567** (U.S. Patent No. 5,830,567).

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/771,700**
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The applicants are claiming a functional molding that purposefully exhibits the properties of the molding resin, like deodorizing and antimicrobial properties (p.6, lines 12-17). In the past, in the preparation step of the mixed particles of the functional component and the ceramics component the particles caused secondary flocculation so that the particle size increased and the desired function and effect of the molding were not sufficiently obtained (p.5, lines 9-24).

Simply stated, the combination of the non-metallic coating (like auto paint) of **Panush '567** with an intermediate adhesive tannic acid-containing layer of **Honda '114** fails to make obvious a molding resin having properties (deodorizing and antimicrobial properties) not disclosed in either reference. This would follow logically from an understanding of the tannic acid-containing layer of **Honda '114** which is created as an adhesive between a metallic sheet and an organic (coating) layer (col.13, lines 36-48). By using different amounts of a functional component, different results are achieved.

But, in short, an adhesive layer and an external coating (like paint) are not obvious ingredients for combination to create the resin claimed by the applicants. A review of tables 19-26 9 (col.41-54) of **Honda '114** shows that the reference is directed toward a layered composition exhibiting good adhesion and corrosion-resistant properties. There is no logical derivation from this to the completely different claimed invention, even in light of the mica coating composition of

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Panush '567. A coating and an adhesive do not, without more, suggest a resin good for antibacterial molds.

More specifically, **Honda '114** discloses a layer composition comprising a base resin and tannic acid and this film may contain silica. However, such a layer is an intermediate layer between an Zn-alloy coating layer and an organic film layer. (See claim 16 of **Honda '114**). Therefore, the coated steel material of **Honda '114** does not show deodorizing properties, antimicrobial properties, physiological properties or antioxidation properties, because the above layer including tannic acid is not exposed on the surface of the coated steel material.

Further, **Honda '114** fails to disclose that a tabular mineral such as tale or mica may be added to the above intermediate layer. In addition, **Honda '114** does not disclose a filament or fiber material nor a filter material.

Panush '567 fails to disclose a plant-originated functional component.

Accordingly, claim 5 and the claims dependent therefrom are patentably distinguishable over the combination of the cited references.

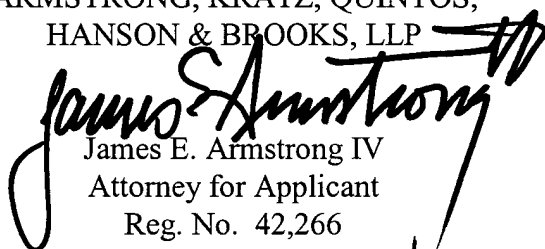
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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